

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /085 W

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P R 291530Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3571

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, LY

SUBJECT: COLONEL QADHAFI VISITS ALGERIA

1. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TRAVELED TO HASSI MESSAOUD, OIL CENTER IN SOUTHEASTERN ALGERIA DECEMBER 28-29 AND MET THERE WITH COL. QADHAFI. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING BOUMEDIENE WAS MADE UP OF FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS: FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, INTERIOR MINISTER ABDELGHANI, AGRICULTURE MINISTER TAYEBI, GENDARMERIE COMMANDER COL. BENCHERIF, MILITARY ACADEMY COMMANDER COL. YAHYAQUI, NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL COL. DRAIA, AND FIRST REGION MILITARY COMMANDER BELHOUCHE. SMAIL HAMDANI, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY, ALSO MADE TRIP. QADHAFI WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO RCC MEMBERS: INTERIOR MINISTER KHOULDI AND MINISTER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE BIN AMIR.

2. COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FOLLOWING RETURN OF TWO LEADERS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS MORNING DEC. 29, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ALGERIA AND LIBYA SHOULD STAND TOGETHER IN VIEW SITUATIONS IN BOTH WESTERN AND EASTERN ARAB WORLD.

B. EACH COUNTRY WOULD CONSIDER ATTACK ON REVOLUTION OF THE OTHER AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ITS OWN.

C. GIVEN COMPLEMENTARITY OF TWO COUNTRIES, INSTITUTIONS WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN UNITY SHOULD BE CREATED.

3. COMMENT: TURNOUT OF ALGERIAN COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS FOR THIS EVENT IS THE LARGEST IN RECENT MEMORY. ONLY ACTIVE MEMBER OF COUNCIL NOT PRESENT IN HASSI MESSAOUD WAS 2ND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER COL. BENDJEDID. ALL COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS PRESENT HAVE BEEN ACTIVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN REGIME'S SAHARA CAMPAIGN.

4. COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTS STRONGLY THAT TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED SAHARA SITUATION. ARMS ASSISTANCE WHICH LIBYANS HAVE BEEN FURNISHING ALGERIA IS ALSO LIKELY TO HAVE COME UP.

5. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE IS VAGUE AS TO HOW MUCH SUPPORT LIBYANS WILL IN FACT GIVE TO ALGERIA'S EFFORTS IN SAHARA. STRESS ON REVOLUTIONARY UNITY AND ON THREATS FROM WEST AND EAST SUGGEST THAT BOUMEDIENE MAY HAVE RECEIVED VERBAL ASSURANCES HE SOUGHT. HE SHOULD HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING QADHAFI OF WORTHINESS OF HIS "MAGHREB OF PEOPLES" (AS DISTINCT FROM "MAGHREB OF STATES") THEME. HOW SPECIFIC QADHAFI'S SUPPORT WILL BECOME, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

6. PERHAPS ALGERIAN PURPOSE WAS NOT SO MUCH TO OBTAIN MATERIAL SUPPORT AS TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH ARAB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORLD'S REVOLUTIONARY "BAD BOY." BOUMEDIENE HAS THREATENED THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE ALGERIA BAD BOY OF NORTH AFRICA AND HIS EXCHANGE WITH QADHAFI MAY BE MEANT SIMPLY TO KEEP THIS THREAT AT FRONT OF EVERYONE'S MIND.PARKER

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